



U.S. Immigration
and Customs
Enforcement

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News Release

ICE DEPORTS 61 NIGERIANS TODAY, MOST WITH CRIMINAL CONVICTIONS

Total Buffalo Removals in August Almost Reaches 200

BUFFALO, N.Y. -- U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) announced today the removal of 61 Nigerians from the United States in an operation from the Niagara Falls International Airport. Many of the Nigerians have significant criminal convictions, including sex crimes, drug crimes, violent assaults and serious financial crimes. Canadian authorities also placed 7 criminal Nigerians on the flight, which departed Wednesday evening for the flight to Lagos, Nigeria. The flight departed from Nigeria this morning.

Fifty-one of the individuals removed from the United States have serious criminal convictions, ranging from murder (1), sex crimes and crimes against children (4), drug convictions (18), fraud, forgery and credit card crimes (21), assault and robbery (4). The remaining individuals were removed for immigration violations.

William M. Cleary, Field Office Director for ICE in Buffalo said this removal operation is an excellent example of how ICE protects the security and public safety of America by removing dangerous criminals. "The criminals who we successfully removed have committed crimes around the country, preying on the innocent and tearing at the fabric of our communities. ICE is dedicated to removing criminals who create violent crimes, sell drugs in our neighborhoods and use fraud and scams to bilk the public," Cleary stated.

The Nigerians came from various locations around the country and were staged at the Buffalo Federal Detention Facility in Batavia, NY. Canadian immigration authorities worked with ICE to place seven Nigerians being deported from Canada on the aircraft.

The 61 individuals removed today bring to 199 the number of removals from the Buffalo Detention and Removal Office in August. Of the total number of removals 164 had criminal convictions and 25 had immigration violations. The convictions included 16 murderers, 6 sex crimes, 7 weapons charges, 38 drug crimes, 23 robbery offenses, and 14 burglary/larceny crimes.

ICE, the largest investigative agency in the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), is committed to restoring integrity to the nation's immigration system by targeting violators – with a special focus on criminal and fugitive aliens who pose a threat to public safety.

The August removals included individuals from 10 different countries, including Nigeria, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Trinidad, Guatemala, Guyana, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, and Pakistan.

ICE officers administered the removals from the Buffalo field office of ICE's Detention and Removal Operations (DRO). The Buffalo office detains illegal aliens for a number of ICE offices in the region at the Federal Detention Facility in Batavia, N.Y.

Cleary pointed out that removing criminal aliens from the United States is a part of a comprehensive law enforcement approach to homeland security and anyone who is here illegally should not be surprised if they are arrested and removed from the country.

ICE

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement was established in March 2003 as the largest investigative arm of the Department of Homeland Security. ICE is comprised of five integrated divisions that form a 21st century law enforcement agency with broad responsibilities for a number of key homeland security priorities.